

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00739 020952Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
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P R 020854Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8452
INFO AMMBASSY OSLO 1869
USMISSION ISNATO
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0739

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON
AIR TERMINAL DECISION

REF: STATE 137692 DTG 312021Z MAY 78

1. ANNOUNCEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON OF
AGREEMENT ON SEPARATION OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY FACILITIES
AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT REPORTED IN MEDIA JUNE 1. BOTH
INDEPENDENCE PARTY DAILY MORGUNBLADID AND PROGRESSIVE PARTY
DAILY TIMINN STATED THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT
MEETING BETWEEN AGUSTSSON AND VANCE MAY 30 AT WHICH ICE-
LANDIC AMBASSADOR TO US HANS ANDERSEN WAS ALSO PRESENT9

2. REPORTING IN BOTH PAPERS DREW EXTENSIVELY FROM ANNOUNCE-
MENT QUOTED REFTEL AND WAS BASICALLY STRAIGHT REPORTING
NOTING THAT DEISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE GOBACK TO 1974.
MORGNUBLADID NOTED THAT BILATERAL TALKS WILL BE NEEDED TO TIE
UP LOOSE ENDS OF AGREEMENT AND THAT AMOUNT OF US CON-
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TRIBUTION HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. TIMINN SAID
THAT US CONGRESS WILLDECIDE AMOUNT OF FUNDING, AND

BOTH PAPERS ATTRIBUTED TO AGUSTSSON VIEW THAT CONGRS-
SIONAL APPROVL WOULD NOT BE OBSTACLE. PRESS ALSO
QUOTED FONMIN AS SAYING WORK ON TERMINAL COULD BEGIN
NEXT YEAR.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL OR OTHER COMMENT
ON ANNOUNCEMENT, PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVLJINN
GAVE ITEM NEGATIVE TREATMNT IN ITS COVERAGE. REPORT
EMPHASIZED THAT AGREEMENT ON AMOUNT OF US ASSISTANCE
HAD NOT BEEN REACHED AND THAT FUNDING WAS STILL
DEPENDENT UPON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. TORY CON-
TINUED BY NOTING THAT THIS WAS ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY
SAME FOREIGN MINISTER WHO, DURING 1971-74 LEFTIST
GO
VERNMENT CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCE .
THJODVLJINN
N ADDED THAT USG WOULD NOT OBLIGATE
ITSELF TO HELP PAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY UNTIL
IT BECAME KNOWN WHAT KIND OF ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE IN OFFICE AFTER NATIONAL ELECTION LATER THIS
MONTH.
BLAKE

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